What is claimed is:

1. An image display method for downloading an image larger than a display region of a viewer from a server and displaying said image on said viewer, comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, so that each divided image may be transmittable from said server, determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said viewer in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said viewer, and enabling the corresponding divided image to be preferentially transmitted from said server.

2. An image display method for downloading an image larger than a display region of a viewer from a server and displaying said image on said viewer, comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said viewer in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said viewer, and enabling the corresponding divided image to be preferentially transmitted from said server.

3. An image display method for downloading an image larger than a display region of a viewer from a server and displaying said image on said viewer, comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each area having a shorter length in one or both of a transverse direction

and a longitudinal direction than said display region of said viewer, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said viewer in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said viewer, and enabling the corresponding divided images to be preferentially transmitted from said server, in which said transmitted divided images are rearranged in an original state and displayed on said viewer.

4. An image display method for downloading an image larger than a display region of a viewer from a server and displaying said image on said viewer, comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, said viewer determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said viewer in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said viewer, and making a preferential request to the server for said divided image, and said server preferentially transmitting said divided image in response to said request, in which said viewer displays the received divided image.

5. An image display method for downloading an image larger than a display region of a viewer from a server and displaying said image on said viewer, comprising:

dividing said image into a plurality of areas, each area

having a shorter length in one or both of a transverse direction and a longitudinal direction than said display region of said viewer, each divided image being provided beforehand in said server, said viewer determining each divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said viewer in accordance with a relative position between said image and said display region of said viewer, and making a preferential request to the server for said divided images, and said server preferentially transmitting said divided images in response to said request, in which said viewer rearranges and displays the received divided images in an original state.

6. The image display method according to claim 1, further comprising determining each surrounding divided image adjacent to the area of said divided image contained in said display region of said viewer, which is contained within a limited range of image area in a predetermined positional relation to the display region of said viewer, and enabling the corresponding divided image to be preferentially transmitted from said server.

7. The image display method according to claim 1, further comprising determining whether or not said divided image is already downloaded and stored in said viewer, in which if said divided image is already stored, said stored divided image is read out and displayed without downloading it from the server again.

8. The image display method according to claim 1, wherein said divided image is obtained by dividing the image like a lattice in one or both of the transverse direction and the longitudinal direction.

9. The image display method according to claim 8, wherein said lattice is formed by dividing said image in the transverse direction at every preset number of pixels from a left end position of said image as a start point, formed by dividing said image in the longitudinal direction at every preset number of pixels from an upper end position of said image as the start point, or formed by dividing said image in the transverse direction at every preset number of pixels from the left end position of said image as the start point and dividing said image in the longitudinal direction at every preset number of pixels from the upper end position of said image as the start point.

10. The image display method according to claim 1, further comprising setting a predetermined number of frame elements on said viewer, said frame elements corresponding to the display region to fit and display the divided images contained within a limited range of image area in a predetermined positional relation to the display region of said viewer, including the divided image at least a part of which is contained in said display region of said viewer, the divided image at corresponding position being fitted into each frame element and displayed, determining each divided image leaves away from

the display region of said viewer along with the relative movement of the image to release the fitting into the frame element, and determining each divided image approaches the display region of said viewer along with the relative movement of the image to newly fit said divided image into the frame element.

11. The image display method according to claim 10, wherein proper identification information is attached to said each frame element, and the divided image leaving away from the display region of said viewer is released the fitting into the frame element, and the divided image approaching the display region of said viewer is newly fitted into the frame element along with the relative movement of said image.

12. The image display method according to claim 10, wherein proper identification information is attached to said each frame element, and said viewer holds said proper identification information associated with information of the display position of said frame element in the display region of said viewer and identification information of the divided image fitted into said frame element, and displays the divided image fitted into each frame element at the corresponding position in the display region of said viewer, based on said information.

13. The image display method according to claim 12, wherein the identification information of said divided image is

composed of information corresponding to an address in the entire image, in which said viewer makes a request to the server for said divided image with the identification information of said divided image, and said server discriminates the divided image corresponding to said identification information and transmits it to said viewer.

14. The image display method according to claim 13, wherein the identification information of said divided image has no information for identifying a file format of each divided image.

15. The image display method according to claim 10, wherein the block is made up of said predetermined number of frame elements as a whole, and when a relative movement of the image is instructed, said viewer calculates the coordinates of the origin of the block to be moved with respect to the origin of the display region of said viewer, and calculates the coordinates of the origin of said each frame element to be moved, based on said calculated coordinates of the origin of the block, and moves the origin of each frame element to the calculated coordinates to implement said relative movement of said image.

16. The image display method according to claim 10, wherein said divided image is obtained by dividing the image like a lattice in the transverse direction in which a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the transverse

direction are fitted into said frame elements, said divided image is obtained by dividing the image like a lattice in the longitudinal direction in which a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the longitudinal direction are fitted into said frame elements, or said divided image is the image divided like a lattice in the transverse and longitudinal directions in which a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the transverse direction, a predetermined number of consecutive divided images in the longitudinal direction, or a predetermined number of divided images in the transverse direction and a predetermined number of divided images in the longitudinal direction are fitted into said frame elements.

17. The image display method according to claim 1, wherein the image having the same contents are transmittable from the server at a plurality of magnifications and by dividing said image into a plurality of areas at each magnification, the image being displayed at a magnification instructed from the viewer by said method.

18. The image display method according to claim 17, wherein the number of pixels at which the image is divided in the transverse direction, or the longitudinal direction, or the transverse and longitudinal directions, is equal irrespective of the magnification.

19. The image display method according to claim 17, wherein

when a magnification change operation is performed by placing a pointer at a position on said image in a state where the image is displayed at one magnification, the image is displayed at the changed magnification with the position on said image where said pointer is located as a steady point.

20. The image display method according to claim 10, wherein the image having the same contents is transmittable from the server at a plurality of magnifications and by dividing said image into a plurality of areas at each magnification, the image being displayed at a magnification instructed from the viewer by said method, in which the number of frame elements is equal, irrespective of the magnification.

21. The image display method according to claim 1, wherein said viewer is a Web browser, each arithmetical operation at said Web browser being executed based on a JavaScript (registered trademark) stored in an HTML transmitted from the server.

22. The image display method according to claim 21, wherein said frame element is set up, employing <DIV> tags described in the HTML transmitted from the server.

23. The image display method according to claim 21, wherein the attribute information such as a file name and/or a file format for said each divided image is not incorporated into the HTML transmitted from the server.

24. The image display method according to claim 1, wherein said image consists of a mixture of divided images having different file formats.